

Colombo on the Isle of Ceylon June 21. 1816

My dear Parents, Brothers, & Sisters

I have just time enough to write you a hasty letter, & cannot let it pass without improving it-- Before this reaches you, I hope you will have received my journal on the voyage, with a short account of our landing & of the pleasing reception we received from our then unknown friends here-- The LORD then favoured us exceedingly & he has not since been <sup>his</sup> kind towards us--

We have been here almost three <sup>months</sup> & now three or four of us are making preparations to settle in Jaffna, district, the north part of this Island where the providence <sup>of</sup> seems most evidently to lead us-- Brother Bardwell is to go to Bombay to join the brethren there-- He is selected to go there because he is a printer & the brethren wish him to come & take the charge of a printing press which they are about to set up to print the word of Life into the Marhatta language, which is the language of the natives among whom they dwell-- It is really a matter for rejoicing that they are able so soon to prepare the precious "Books of Books" which contains the words of eternal life, for the poor heathens around them--

They write us they preach, & instruct the natives every day, & are instructing, & overseeing three schools which I think contain between one & two hundred children-- All this looks as though GOD did smile upon them & blessed them--

The language I & my brethren, who go with me to Jaffna, <sup>will learn,</sup> is the Tamil or Malabar-- I am just beginning to look at the alphabet which contains a large number of very crooked ugly shaped letters such as these ၂ ၃ ၄ ၅ ၆ ၇ ၈ ၉ ၁၀ ၁၁ & some so very very crooked that I cannot make them-- for this day for the first, I began to commit the alphabet-- Since we landed we have been attending to a corrupted Portuguese language

which is a mixture of Portuguese, with the Dutch, ~~English~~, English,  
& Malabar; but which is spoken by a vast number of ~~English~~  
& Malabar natives on the borders of the Island, where Europeans  
are settled - servants almost all speak this language. It is very  
easily learned, & when acquired one can preach to a larger con-  
gregation, <sup>in this & many of the principal towns,</sup> that can understand him, than in English - I began  
to speak it soon, altho' I have attended to it but very little during  
six weeks. - In the district of Jaffna we shall not have much  
use for this language, or any other but Tamil - I long to be  
teaching these ignorant heathen the interesting truths of  
the holy Bible, & pointing them to "the Lamb of God, that  
taketh away the sins of the world", since we have been  
here we have all preached once & twice a week in English  
I have been able to take my turn ever since the second  
week after landing. My health & lungs are quite good -

Occasionally we go out & preach by interpreters to the  
English - We preach in English for our very kind friends, the Rev.  
J. Baker Baptist, & the Rev. & Mrs. Howard & Clough Methodists,  
Missionaries. Our brother Chater & Lady have been very kind to  
us, & so have the Methodists, tho' we live at some distance from  
them. God has raised us up many valuable friends here -  
The Governour, Genl. Brownrigg, treats us in the kindest  
manner. He has granted us permission, with the assurance  
of his protection, & assistance to go to Jaffna & enjoy every  
privilege we asked of him. Sir Alex<sup>r</sup>. Johnston <sup>tho' justly</sup> has shown  
us particular attention - The Hon<sup>ble</sup> & Rev. Mr. Sturleton, senior Chaplain  
he has been our most active friend, & the Rev. G. Bisset junior  
Chaplain has offered to show us every assistance in his power.

They all feel very desirous that we should settle in the  
Island - I mention these acts of kindness to show how far  
we have been favoured above our brethren who went out  
before us - They were opposed at every step by Governments  
& obliged to fight their way through; but we have been con-  
sented by Government & desired to stay & instruct the ignorant  
natives of this Island - While we rejoice in view of the distinguishing